



Football Sports Boards-FAQ's

Q. How much can I charge per chance?

A. Up to \$25 per space / chance.

Q. What is the most that a \$25/square board can pay out?

A. A 25 square board, for example, which charges \$25 per chance can pay no more than \$625; a similar 100 square board can pay no more than \$2,500. Most sports pools offered are not capable of generating the \$2,500 prize limit because the number of chances sold will never total that amount. All sports pools must pay out 100%.

Q. Can I have a board that only pays out on the final score of a football game?

A. Yes, as long as the payout to the winner equals the total value of the board. All sports boards have to have 100% payout. Sport tab games must have at least a 90% payout.

Q. Is there a way I can create a separate board for each quarter?

A. No. However you may offer a sports pool that pays out in intervals, such as the end of each quarter. For example, a 100 square board for which \$5 is charged will have a total prize of \$500 which may pay out \$125 per quarter. If prizes are paid in intervals there must be a prize awarded for the final score and interval prizes may not exceed the final score prize. Payouts may never be made at "any other contrived point, action, event or episode" in the game, e.g., every time the score changes.

Q. How many boards can I run for each game?

A. There is no limit to the number of boards you can run per game, but they must be independent from each other.

Q. What happens if I don't sell all the spaces on the board before the start of the game?

A. The sponsor (usually the bar) selling the spaces is required to buy any remaining space(s). The board can never be altered after it is started, e.g., changing the board to a later game to allow more time to sell spaces.

Q. Where should I store the money for each board?

A. *The money for each board should be kept in a safe location, but must be kept separate from other money and be made available for inspection. Money should be kept in separate envelopes (or other method for segregating the money) and each envelope should be labeled to correspond with the board it represents. Inspectors should be able to come into the bar, randomly pick a fully sold or partially sold board and count the money specific to that board. No charitable proceeds may be removed from the proceeds until after the outcome of the game.*

Q. Can I lock the sports board money in the safe until it's paid out?

A. *Yes, as long as it is made available for inspection upon request of a Gambling Investigator, or local law enforcement officer, and so long as each envelope corresponds to an associated board.*

Q. If I use a Point-of-sale (POS) system for all my sales in the bar, can I run the sports board sales through the POS system if I have a special code for the transaction and keep the deposits separate from the rest?

A. *A POS system has not been approved for tracking sports boards. At this time, all sports board monies have to be paid out from the money collected (individual envelopes created) from the cash sale of spaces for each board. No checks or till money may be used to pay sports pool winners. Prizes must be paid in full and in cash.*

Q. Can I accept checks or credit cards for the sale of sports pool chances?

A. *No. The sale of sports pool chances must be in cash only and must be paid in full at the time of purchase.*

Q. I've heard different stories on how to properly set up a board, any suggestions?

A. *Administrative rules can assist in setting up your boards correctly, so when in doubt, visit the Gambling Control website at <https://dojmt.gov/gaming/> and if you still have questions, contact the Division at 406-444-1971.*

Master square boards are the most common, where it is divided into horizontal and vertical rows. BEFORE ANY SQUARES ARE SOLD, the sports board card has to clearly indicate the following:

- a. Rules for conducting the sports pool*
- b. name of the sports event (ie: Super Bowl) covered by the card*
- c. name of the competitors in the sports event, if known (Broncos v. Seahawks)*
- d. date of sports event*
- e. total number of chances available in pool (25, 100)*
- f. cost for each chance*
- g. total amount to be paid to each winner*
- h. predetermined intervals for which a prize will be awarded, if any. (1st qtr, 2nd qtr, 3rd qtr, ~~or~~ and final score)*
- i. name of person or bar conducting the sports pool*

j. value of each individual prize and total of all prizes. (e.g.-1st qtr-\$10, 2nd qtr-\$10, 3rd qtr.-\$10, final score \$20 for total of \$50.00 on a 25 square/\$2 a chance board), (32" flat screen TV \$495, cash \$5 for a total of \$500 on a 100 square/\$5 a chance board.)

Once the winners are determined for each prize, their names must be prominently displayed on each board.

Q. When do I assign numbers to the horizontal and vertical rows?

A. Once you close the pool (when all chances have been sold), numbers are then to be randomly assigned to the horizontal and vertical rows. Any unsold spaces at that point are considered purchased by the bar or person sponsoring the board and that person or entity must mark those spaces as sold.

Q. How long do I need to keep my sports boards after the football game(s)?

A. A sports pool card/board must be held for **at least 90 days** from the date of the sports event and must be made available for inspection upon request. The names of the sports pool winner(s) must be prominently displayed on each board. Sports tab game boards must be kept for one year.

Q. When do I have to award the prizes?

A. Prizes must be awarded **at the conclusion** of the sports event (or series of sports events), or as soon thereafter as the winner appears to claim her prize.

Q. Can merchandise be awarded as prizes?

A. Yes, you can award merchandise as the prize(s) to the winner(s) of the sports pool. However, a prize in the form of merchandise must be identified before the sale of any chances; the purchase price of the merchandise must equal the value of winning square, or the difference in value must be paid in cash to the winner. The purchase price of the prize can never exceed the value of the pool. Proof of the purchase price (**receipts**) of merchandise must be retained for **at least 90 days** from the date of the sports event. Sports tab games have a one year retention on boards and receipts.

Q. When do the team names have to be placed on the horizontal & vertical axis?

A. You are required to have the two teams on the board prior to the start of the game. It is your preference which team goes on the horizontal axis or the vertical axis of the board. If the particular teams are not yet known, it is permissible to identify them by conference or other affiliation (i.e. NFC Champion vs. AFC Champion if offering a Traditional Super Bowl sports pool).

Q. What size boards are approved?

A. Master square boards of 25 or 100 squares are approved for the most commonly used sports pool boards. A different style of board is required for other authorized variations of sports pools as found in Mont. Admin. R. 23.16.1705.

Q. If I have any questions, who can I call?

A. Please contact the Gambling Control Division or visit the State of Montana Dept. of Justice, Gambling Control Division website to get the most up to date FAQ Sports Board sheet, for office locations and phone numbers. The main Helena number is 406-444-1971. Website is:

<https://doj.mt.gov/gaming/>

The codes concerning Sports Pools can be located in MCA 23-5-501 thru 23-5-512 and rules can be located in ARM 23.16.1701 thru 23.16.1709.

Valid only for 2015/16 Football Season